

REMARKS

Claims 12-14, 17-24, 27-31 and 34-36 are pending with claims 34-36 added and claims 26, 32 and 33 canceled by this paper.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §112, Second Paragraph and Claim Objections

Applicants have amended the claims to remove most of the rejections and objections to place the claims in condition for allowance. With respect to replacing the article "A" with --The--, replacing "method" with --process--, and deleting the dependence of claim 13 on claim 14 and adding an additional dependent claim, Applicants respectfully submit that none of these amendments narrow the scope of the claims:

With respect to the rejection to claim 13, namely the term "optionally" should read "optically", Applicants respectfully submit that term "optionally" is proper and not ambiguous. See specification at page 16, lines 15-20 and the M.P.E.P. at §2173.05(h). Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Ruland, Reg. No. 37,432
Attorney for Applicants

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO &
BRANIGAN, P.C.

Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1, Suite 1400
2200 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Telephone: (703) 243-6333
Facsimile: (703) 243-6410

Attorney Docket No.: HIRSCH-0018 D1 Date: June 7, 2004